



8. A method according to claim 7 wherein said receptor is selected from one or more of the group consisting of EDG-2, EDG-3, EDG-4, EDG-5 and EDG-6.
9. The agonist as identified by the method of claim 8.
10. A pharmaceutical composition containing the agonist of claim 9 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
11. A method of treating an inflammatory process condition in a subject comprising administering an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 10 for upregulation of the inflammatory process, respectively.
12. A method of modulating an immune response in a subject comprising administering an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 10 for upregulation of the immune response.
13. A method of identifying a compound as an agonist for a receptor as defined in claim 3, comprising the steps of:
  - (a) culturing cells which express the receptor of claim 3 in a medium with low-serum or defined medium designed to reduce basal levels of IL-8 production;
  - (b) contacting said cultured cells with a candidate compound to be tested for agonist activity at said receptor; and
  - (c) measuring a response indicative of the degree of IL-8 production.
14. A method according to claim 13 wherein said receptor is selected from one or more of the group consisting of EDG-2, EDG-3, EDG-4, EDG-5 and EDG-6.
15. The agonist as identified by the method of claim 14.

16. A pharmaceutical composition containing the agonist of claim 15 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
17. A method of identifying a compound as an antagonist for a receptor as defined in claim 3, comprising the steps of:
  - (a) culturing cells which express the receptor of claim 3 in medium with low-serum or defined medium designed to reduce basal levels of NF- $\kappa$ B activation;
  - (b) contacting said cells with a mixture comprising an agonist and said compound to be tested for antagonist activity at said receptor, wherein said agonist is selected from a LL or 20% FBS; and
  - (c) measuring a response indicative of the degree of NF- $\kappa$ B activation.
18. The method of claim 17 wherein said receptor is selected from the group comprising EDG-2, EDG-3, EDG-4, EDG-5 and EDG-6.
19. The antagonist as identified by the method of claim 18.
20. A pharmaceutical composition containing the antagonist as defined in claim 19 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
21. A method of treating an inflammatory process condition in a subject comprising administering an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 20 for downregulation of the inflammatory process.
22. A method of modulating an immune response in a subject comprising administering an effect amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 20 for downregulation of the immune response.

23. A method of identifying a compound as an antagonist for a receptor as defined in claim 3 comprising the steps of:

- (a) culturing cells which express the receptor of claim 3 in medium with low-serum or defined medium designed to reduce basal levels of IL-8 production;
- (b) contacting said cells with a mixture comprising an agonist and said compound to be tested for antagonist activity at said receptor, wherein said agonist is an LL or 20% FBS; and
- (c) measuring a response indicative of the degree of IL-8 production .

24. The method of claim 21 wherein said receptor is selected from the group comprising EDG-2, EDG-3, EDG-4, EDG-5 and EDG-6.

25. The antagonist as identified by the method of claim 22.

26. A pharmaceutical composition containing the antagonist as defined in claim 23 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

27. A method of controlling apoptosis in a cell comprising a receptor as defined in claim 3 comprising the step of contacting said cell with an effective amount of an agonist of claim 9.

28. A method of controlling apoptosis in a cell comprising a receptor as defined in claim 3 comprising the step of contacting said cell with an effective amount of an antagonist of claim 19.

29. A method of determining whether an expressible DNA sequence encodes an EDG receptor that upon activation by a suitable EDG receptor ligand results in increased NF- $\kappa$ B or IL-8 activation, comprising:

- (a) identifying a cell that does not exhibit increased NF- $\kappa$ B activation when contacted with said ligand;
- (b) transfecting said cell with said expressible DNA sequence; and

- (c) contacting said transfected cell with said ligand and measuring the resulting NF- $\kappa$ B or IL-8 activation.
30. A method according to claim 29 wherein said ligand is selected from one or more of the group comprising LPA, S1P, SPC, psychosine, glucopsychosine, dihydro-S1P and edelfosine.
31. An isolated nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) the nucleotide sequence comprising nucleotides 38- 1099 of Figure 15A;
  - (b) the nucleotide sequence of Figure 15B;
  - (c) a nucleotide sequence with at least about 95% sequence identity to (a) or (b) and which hybridizes under stringent conditions to sequences (a) and (b), respectively;
  - (d) a nucleotide sequence which encodes the amino acid sequence for the human EDG-4 receptor of Figure 16A; and
  - (e) a nucleotide sequence which encodes the amino acid sequence for the human EDG-4 receptor of Figure 16B.
32. A human EDG-4 receptor encoded by the nucleotide sequence of claim 3.
33. An expression vector comprising the nucleotide sequence of claim 3.
34. A host cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 5.